

United States
Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Miles City Field Office

Yale and Smithsonian 2013
Paleo Exc.

Determination of NEPA Adequacy
DOI-BLM-MT-C020-2013-0180-DNA

For Further Information Please Contact:

Bureau of Land Management
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BLM



Location/Legal Description East ½ NW¼ Section 12, Township 03 North, Range 61 East, and SW¼SE¼ Township 08 North, Range 61 East Fallon County, Montana

A: Description of the Proposed Action: The proposed action is to continue excavations at the Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History (YPM) Paleontological Locality 06.24(Camel Butte) in Fallon County, Montana (See Attached Map). Previous excavations at the locality have recovered vertebrate fossils including the remains of fish, turtles, crocodiles, champsosaurs, and primitive mammals. The excavations are near the Cretaceous/Tertiary Boundary and document changing faunas between the end of the age of dinosaurs and the beginning of the rise of the age of mammals. The focus of the excavation will be on recovery of additional fossil mammals including multituberculate teeth and jaws and condylarth fossils. The pit would be between 2X2 and 3X3 meters wide and approximately 1.5 meters deep.

A second excavation is to continue paleontological excavations at a Yale Fossil Locality discovered at the end of 2012. The excavation would remove a small ceratopsian dinosaur. The Smithsonian proposes to excavate, map, and remove the fossil. Upon removing the fossil, the area would be backfilled. The excavation would not exceed seven by ten meters.

Excavations would be done with hand tools (shovels, picks, rakes, rock hammers, and dental picks). Materials would be dry screened through 1mm mesh to ensure maximum specimen recovery. Specimens would be hand plastered and be removed manually. Any excavation units would be backfilled before leaving the field. Work would begin in July 2013 and continue through the 2013 field season.

Applicant: Division of Vertebrate Paleontology, Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History, Yale University, New Haven, CT. National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington D.C.